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CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM

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1998

May 1965

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

SOVIET ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL  
PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS FROM THE  
LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE  
FREE WORLD

DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

Office of Research and Reports

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SOVIET ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS  
FROM THE LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES OF THE FREE WORLD\*

Summary

More than 11,500 students from less developed countries have received academic training in the USSR since the inception of the program in 1956. The number of such students enrolled in Soviet institutions of higher education has increased each year, and in 1964 about 9,200 students were studying in the USSR. In addition, since 1956 the USSR has offered technical training to more than 6,800 personnel from less developed countries, primarily with a view toward providing them with the requisite technical and managerial skills so that they would help implement and staff Soviet aided projects in their home countries. In 1964, about 2,700 technical trainees were undergoing training in the USSR.

Although academic students from less developed countries study in a variety of regular Soviet universities (for example, the state universities of Moscow, Leningrad, Kiev, and the Central Asian University of Tashkent), the largest such institution and one designed primarily for students from less developed countries is Peoples' Friendship University, which opened its doors in the fall of 1960. Currently, more than 3,000 such students are studying at this university, and as a result of an ambitious program to expand its facilities and to make it into a "university city for students of the world," Soviet officials have estimated that by the fall of 1965 the school will be able to accommodate between 4,000 and 5,000 students.

The recruitment of students from less developed countries for study in the USSR is done through Soviet embassies and consulates throughout the Free World; through local Communist parties, Communist front organizations, and leftist-oriented trade unions; through international organizations such as the International Union of Students; and, for technical trainees particularly, through bilateral economic and technical assistance and cultural exchange agreements between the USSR and the country concerned. Soviet recruitment practice has proved highly successful in its willingness to accept students who lack adequate preparatory training and hence are generally passed over by the West, which places heavy emphasis on formal qualifications. Moreover, the lure of all-expense scholarships in the USSR, which include costs of transportation, tuition, housing, clothing, medical care, and, most importantly, a stipend which is liberal compared with that received by even the most capable Soviet students, has been especially attractive. The cost to the USSR of its academic training program is estimated at more than \$80 million over the period 1956-64.

\* The estimates and conclusions in this report represent the best judgment of this Office as of 15 April 1965.

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Student disaffection has constituted a continuing problem for Soviet authorities. In general the environmental causes of dissatisfaction that have been most mentioned by students from less developed countries are the climatic rigors of the USSR, the restrictions on personal movement and social intercourse with the local population, and the poor quality of the instruction. Vexing though such problems must be to Soviet authorities, there is no indication that such difficulties and the attendant bad publicity have led to any immediate revision of the Soviet academic training program for students from less developed countries. The decline in the rate of new enrollees, evident since 1962, may presage a Soviet decision to scale down its acceptance of students for study in the USSR. What does seem certain, however, is that although the Soviet claim of an average of 10 applicants for every available space in Peoples' Friendship University may be exaggerated, a flow of students from the less developed countries at whatever level the authorities may wish is likely to be forthcoming.

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## I. Introduction

Soviet interest in training selected nationals from less developed countries has a long history dating back to the establishment of the University of the Toilers of the East in Moscow in 1921. Its rationale, however, was as different from that of contemporary Communist training programs as was Stalin's concept of promoting political revolution in colonial areas different from his successors' more "gradualist" approach to the national liberation movement. Stalin's characterization of the mission of the University of the Toilers of the East, "to forge real revolutionaries who, armed with the theory of Leninism and endowed with the practical experience of Leninism, are capable of accomplishing the immediate tasks of the liberation movements in the colonies and countries living in dependence," 1/\* is in sharp contrast to the more subtle approach that Khrushchev exhibited at the inauguration ceremonies of the Peoples' Friendship University in November 1960:

Naturally, we shall not force our ideas, our ideology on any student. World outlook is an absolutely voluntary affair. If you wish to know my political convictions, I will not conceal the fact that I am a Communist and firmly believe that the most advanced ideology is the Marxist-Leninist ideology. If any of you comes to the conclusion that this ideology is acceptable to him, we shall bear him no grudge. However, neither shall we be disconcerted if you do not become Communists.

For more than one hundred years now, people who disagree with the Marxist teaching have been rallying their efforts to discover an antidote for that "disease," to halt that, to them, menacing phenomenon, the spread of Marxist ideas. But according to our information no such antidote has yet been discovered.

So if anyone of you wishes to find the reasons, to find out why people catch Communism, you are welcome to do so. I am sure the Rector and professors of the University will help you with everything possible -- literature, textbooks -- so that you might achieve such a goal. 2/

Thus the current objective, both as stated and as demonstrated in practice, differs markedly from that of earlier Soviet training programs. From the October Revolution until the mid-1950's the Soviet aim was almost exclusively to train the "already committed" as professional revolutionaries, for example, Party workers and agitators,

\* For serially numbered source references, see Appendix D.

espionage agents, guerrilla leaders, and the like. Although serious effort in this subversive field undoubtedly continues, the Communist leaders now see added opportunity to extend their influence and to effect developments to their liking through the less direct means of influencing orientation, shaping basic concepts and operational techniques, and establishing lasting rapport and contacts with the potential élite of developing countries. This new emphasis accords with the current Soviet line that, if properly "enlightened" and enticed, the élite of the emerging countries can be led by sheer self-interest increasingly to oppose "imperialism" and of their own volition to travel step by step the road to "true socialism."

## II. Number of Students and Country of Origin

Although the number of new students from less developed countries who enroll each year for study in Soviet universities has declined since 1962 (see Table 1), the number of those studying in the USSR

Table 1

Number of Academic Students Departing  
for the USSR, by Calendar Year  
1956-64

Area of Origin	Persons						
	1956-59 <sup>a/</sup>	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	Total
Total	995	1,020	2,200	3,455	2,490	1,375	11,535
Middle East	845	175	1,255	985	440	140	3,840
Africa	75	360	470	1,835	1,510	865	5,115
Asia	60	405	335	370	345	230	1,745
Latin America	15	80	140	265	195	140	835

a. The figures for 1956-59 represent the total number of academic students who were studying in the USSR.

has continued to increase, from less than 1,000 in 1959 to more than 9,000 in 1964,\* as shown in the following tabulation:

Total	9,165
Middle East	2,330
Africa	4,640
Asia	1,455
Latin America	740

\* In 1964, approximately 14,600 students from less developed countries were enrolled in academic institutions in [footnote continued on p. 5]



By comparison, about 40,000 students from less developed countries were enrolled in US universities in 1964.

In the earlier years of the program, countries of the Middle East, principally the United Arab Republic and Iraq, sent the largest number of students for study in the USSR, but since 1962, more than one-half of the new enrollees have come from African countries. In 1964, 51 percent of the students from less developed countries studying in the USSR came from Africa, primarily from the Somali Republic, Ghana, and Kenya; 25 percent were from the Middle East, largely from Iraq; 16 percent were from Asian countries, primarily Indonesia, Afghanistan, and India; and 8 percent from Latin America (see the chart\*).

### III. Academic Institutions

#### A. Peoples' Friendship University

By far the most important Soviet educational training institution accommodating students from less developed countries is Peoples' Friendship University imeni Patrice Lumumba, which opened its doors in September 1960 and which now accounts for more than one-third of all students from less developed countries studying in the USSR. The establishment of an institution designed primarily for students from Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America\*\* signified the importance and permanency that the USSR attached to this facet of its over-all effort in less developed countries.

Peoples' Friendship University is not a "state" but a "social" institution. Such organizations are ostensibly distinguished from state organizations by the fact that membership in them is voluntary and that the members participate to a relatively high degree in the administration of the organizations' affairs. Moreover, a social organization, theoretically, is not legally subordinate to any political organ of the government.

The founders of the University, that is, the Soviet Solidarity Committee for the Countries of Asia and Africa, the Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, and the All-Union Central Council of the Trade Unions, are not technically a part of the Soviet governmental apparatus. It is noteworthy, however, that a Soviet deputy minister of higher education was appointed

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all Communist countries; Eastern Europe accounted for about 5,100 and Communist China for about 300.

\* Following p. 6.

\*\* Not all of the students enrolled in Peoples' Friendship University are from less developed countries. Of approximately 600 students who entered the University in the fall of 1964, about 100 were from the USSR.

to be the University's first rector and that representatives of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education were appointed to the University Council, which drew up the rules of admission to the University and which, along with representatives of the founding organizations, reviews all applications for admission (see Appendix A).

1. Plant

Funds for the physical plant, including those for equipment of laboratories and study rooms, general services, land and buildings, were supplied by the Soviet government. Initially the government provided three buildings -- two former military schools and a military barracks that was used as a dormitory -- and made much propaganda of the fact that these buildings were available because of the reduction in the Soviet armed forces. Funds for its operations are supplied by the Soviet government but also may be supplied indirectly through the founding organizations. An additional possible source of financing, which has not been confirmed, may be an International Patrice Lumumba Scholarship Fund, reportedly established in February 1961 by officials of the World Trade Union Federation, the International Union of Students, and the International Organization of Journalists. The fund, to be maintained by contributions of the unions affiliated with these three organizations, then would be made available to the admissions committee of the University.

As of December 1964 the University consisted of one preparatory and six specialized academic faculties (or divisions) with 69 academic chairs\* and had more than 137 laboratories and 45 study rooms. By 1968, in accordance with a planned expansion of the physical plant, the facilities are to include a separate building for each of its faculties, a museum, workshops, laboratories, a computer center, a medical clinic, experimental farm plots, a miniature machine building plant, and dormitories for about 4,200 students. Separate living quarters are to be available for married students. The design of the new university complex also provides for a stadium that will accommodate 5,000 persons, a hotel for out-of-town visitors, a kindergarten, and a nursery. 3/

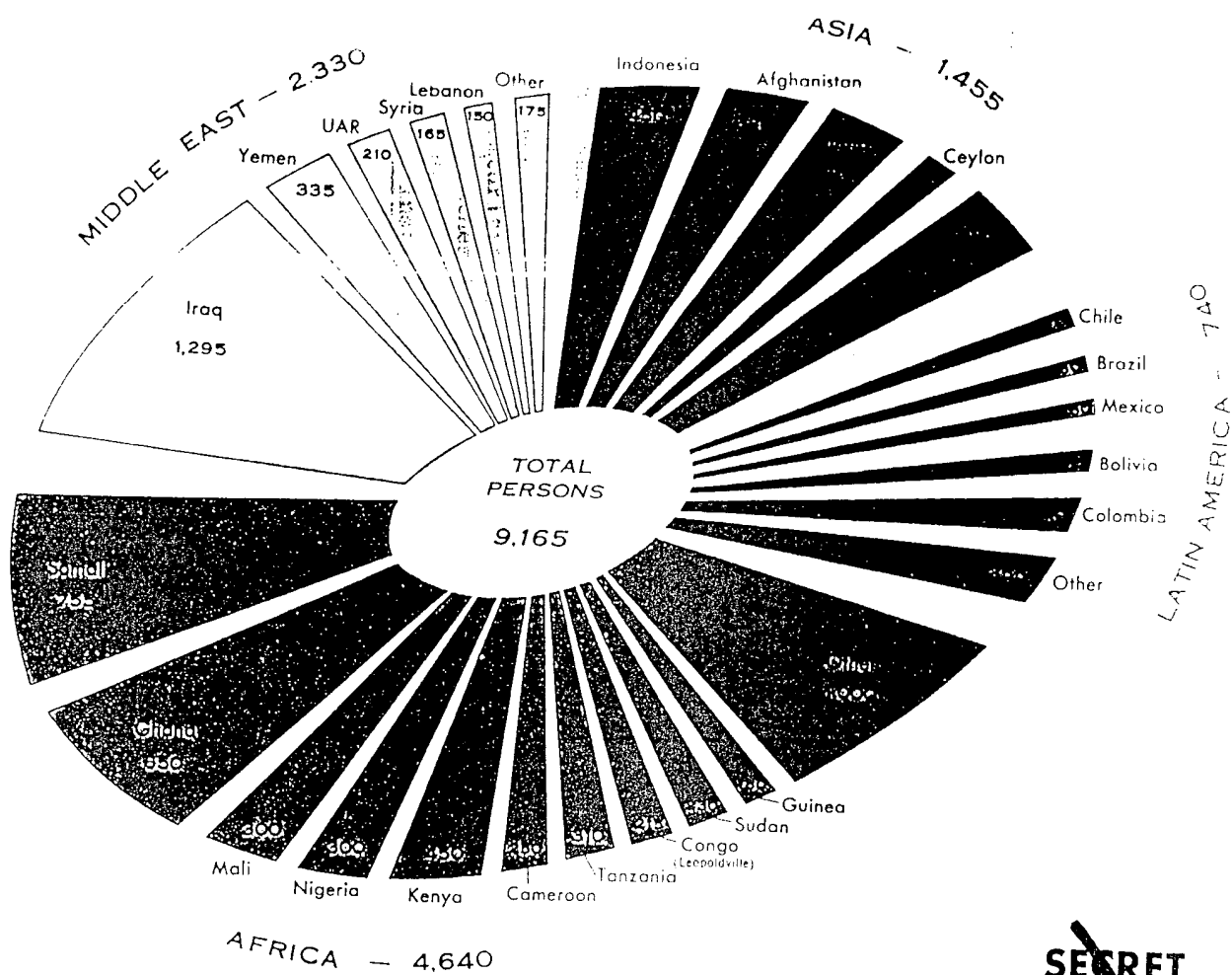
2. Staff and Student Body

The teaching staff of the University consists of three types of instructors: (1) full-time staff members who possess considerable experience in teaching foreign students; (2) full-time staff members with experience in teaching their subject specialty; and (3) part-time instructors from the regular higher institutions in Moscow. Among the 850 instructors reported on the faculty for the 1964-65 academic year, 50 hold doctorates and 250 are candidates of

\* For the purpose of actual instruction, the divisions of the University are subdivided into departments or chairs that deal with one or several subjects of instruction.

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science. With an estimated enrollment of more than 3,000 students during this period,\* the University has a pupil-teacher ratio of less than 4 to 1. 4/

About 2,500 students, enrolled in the faculties of Peoples' Friendship University for the 1963/64 academic year, were distributed as shown in the following tabulation 5/:

<u>Faculty</u>	<u>Number of Students</u>	<u>Percentage of Total Enrollment</u>
Preparatory	848**	34
Engineering	500	20
Medicine	397	16
Economics and Law	311	13
Mathematics and Physics	171	7
History and Philology	143	6
Agriculture	99	4
Total	<u>2,469</u>	<u>100</u>

According to a statement by the rector of Peoples' Friendship University, 232 specialists, including 32 from the Arab countries, 45 from Southeast Asia, and 57 from Latin America, will constitute the first graduating class at the conclusion of the 1964/65 academic year. The graduating class will include 56 engineers, 43 economists, 33 lawyers, 30 agriculturists, 25 philologists, 11 physicists, 11 chemists, 8 historians, and 5 mathematicians. 6/

#### B. Other Soviet Institutions

The foreign students in the USSR participate in two major university systems: the Peoples' Friendship University system and the Moscow-Kiev preparatory system. The former is made up of both preparatory and university facilities; the latter consists of special language and preuniversity programs that lead to study in regular universities.

The preparation of foreign students for study in regular Soviet higher educational institutions has been an important element in the international education program of the USSR and was reflected in government administrative directives as early as 1954. In order to meet the special problems of these foreign students -- those with a lack of proficiency in the Russian language and inadequate academic background for

\* University officials estimate that by the fall of 1965 the school will be able to accommodate between 4,000 and 5,000 students.

\*\* Of 848 students enrolled in the Preparatory Faculty, 619 were in the first year, 208 in the second, and 21 in the third year.

college level work -- special emphasis was directed to increasing the number of language teachers; preparing textbooks, study aids, and special texts on the Russian language; using visual aids; and the like. In addition, preparatory faculties within the regular universities were created. In September 1959, Moscow State University organized a Preparatory Faculty for Foreign Students with the goal of preparing the students and post-graduates for further study in Soviet higher schools, with emphasis on language instruction but also including elementary courses in science and the humanities. After attending the Preparatory Faculty for a period of 1 year, the student then continues his education in the regular faculties of the University. Kiev State University opened a Preparatory Faculty for Foreign Students early in 1961. A similar faculty has been established at Leningrad University and another at Tashkent University. The Georgian Polytechnical Institute in Tbilisi admitted foreign students in September 1960.\* 7/

#### IV. Curriculum

The undertaking of an educational venture of such magnitude was novel not only for the USSR but also in the history of education in general -- but was one that inevitably was fraught with great difficulties. In an article written after the completion of the first academic year, the rector of Peoples' Friendship University defensively asserted:

The higher school is the natural continuation of the secondary school. Continuity between them is absolutely necessary if the higher school is to function successfully. Naturally those foreign students who have received their secondary education in their own countries experience great difficulties in this respect. The Peoples' Friendship University is in such a position. Students have come here from 63 countries. The majority of them had not the haziest notion of the Russian language. They received a most diverse education. Therefore, when organizing the teaching process we strive to take into account all of the peculiarities of our student body and to ensure that they are well trained within a short period. 8/

\* Thus Soviet procedures for preparatory training of foreign students contrast sharply with Western practices. Western selection methods largely limit higher educational opportunities to those academically qualified for advanced training -- that is, those who possess a secondary school education and a language facility.

In addition to these problems of linguistic and academic deficiencies, the Soviet effort was further hampered by the existence of few textbooks or other study aids for foreign students. To help solve the special problems of a school devoted primarily to foreign students with a diversity of cultural and linguistic backgrounds, considerable use is made of audio-visual aids. Lecture rooms are equipped for simultaneous translation and with movie and slide projectors. Matriculants are expected to spend a minimum of 1 academic year, approximately 890 hours, learning to understand, speak, and read the Russian language. Four hours a day, 6 days a week, are spent in classes accommodating five or six students. In addition, at least 1 hour a day is to be expended in the language laboratory listening to tapes and recording spoken Russian. 9/

Inasmuch as the syllabuses for courses and the curriculums of Peoples' Friendship University were formulated with the assistance of many of the established Soviet universities and institutes, all of which are under the pervasive control of the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education, the course content is aligned with that prevailing throughout the Soviet educational system. In fact the rector so stated in an article reviewing the first anniversary of the University -- "in terms of the time allotted to general scientific, general professional and special subjects, the curriculums of the 14 specialties of the University do not differ from those of other Soviet higher education institutions." 10/

In the Preparatory Faculty, classes for basic subjects related to the student's special field of study accommodate between 15 and 18 students and are larger than those held in language training. Those students preparing for study in the fields of engineering, physics, mathematics, and the natural sciences undertake courses in mathematics, physics, and mechanical drawing; medical and agricultural students study chemistry and biology. Enrollees in all these faculties also are required to take the course "Historical Geographic Survey" in which, according to a Soviet education journal, they receive "a basic, general view of world history and geography, and of the tenor of life in the Soviet society." It would seem highly probable that this required course includes indoctrination in Communist ideology, although significantly, the "social science" courses, required of all Soviet students in regular universities -- Dialectical and Historical Materialism, Political Economy, and History of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union -- are omitted from the program of Peoples' Friendship University. Inasmuch as one of the stated main tasks of Soviet higher education is the training of specialists "on the basis of Marxist-Leninist teaching," Communist doctrine presumably is interwoven wherever possible.

Soviet higher education has no equivalent to a liberal arts program common in US colleges and universities, and students pursue narrowly specialized curriculums. In all, Soviet higher education covers more than 300 specialties, of which more than 70 percent are industrial

(including construction, transport, and communications), agricultural, and economic fields. <sup>11/</sup> Associated with each specialty is a specific curriculum, each course of which is guided by a syllabus and selected instructional content, textbooks, laboratory work, and study assignment. Illustrative of the narrowness of the training is the fact that programs for mechanical engineering are separate for agricultural machinery, machine tools, casting equipment, automobiles, tractors, and aircraft engines. There are programs for metallurgical engineering specialists in copper and alloys, in lightweight metals, and in ferrous metallurgy; for mining engineering specialists in the drilling of petroleum and gas wells or in the exploration of coal deposits; and for civil engineering specialists in bridge design, in building large-scale hydro-technical structures, or in erecting industrial buildings. <sup>12/</sup> This fragmentation is applicable to every field of professional education.

Thus the student from the Middle East, Africa, Asia, or Latin America, be he an enrollee in Peoples' Friendship University or in one of the regular Soviet academic institutions, will receive an exclusively professional education rather than a general higher education or liberal arts program of instruction. Every graduate of Peoples' Friendship University, provided he has spent all his university years there, will receive a diploma stating the specialty in which he was trained and the occupational title he has earned. If he were a Soviet citizen, theoretically his certificate also would indicate the occupation in which he should be employed.

#### V. Stipends and Allowances

Among the costs generally covered by Soviet academic scholarships are transportation to and from the students' homeland, tuition, medical care, clothing, and housing. Perhaps the greatest inducement of all, however, is the living allowance; the stipend given is 80 rubles\* per month for those enrolled in the preparatory program and 90 rubles per month thereafter.\*\* <sup>13/</sup> In addition to the stipend, students from less developed countries are given 15 days' vacation during the winter and a 2-month vacation in the summer, with the option to work for extra pay in addition to their stipend or to go to a state-owned recreation facility.\*\*\*

\* Equivalent to about US \$90. A nominal rate of exchange based on the gold content of the respective currencies is 0.90 ruble to US \$1. This rate, however, does not necessarily reflect the dollar purchasing power of the ruble.

\*\* By comparison, stipends for Soviet students, excluding only those with parents earning more than 500 rubles a month and those with poor grades, range from 29 rubles a month for first-year students to 40 rubles for those in the fifth year. Students who maintain an "excellent" scholastic average get a 25-percent bonus.

\*\*\* A recent statement by the rector of Peoples' Friendship University asserted that, during the summer of 1964, [footnote continued on p. 11]

The rector of Peoples' Friendship University has disclosed that the total cost per student for a 5-year training program in the USSR is approximately \$12,500. <sup>15/</sup> A major part of the total outlay presumably is accounted for by the stipends that total about \$5,300 and that are paid to the student over the 5-year period. A clothing allowance, granted to the student only one time, is valued at \$335. Round trip transportation by air to Moscow is estimated at about \$500. The residual, \$6,365, would represent the direct resource costs of schooling -- that is, expenditures on the physical plant, housing, medical care, and the like. On this basis, the cost of academic training for nationals of less developed countries in 1964 is estimated to have been roughly \$23 million. The cost for the entire program since its inception in 1956 has exceeded \$80 million.

#### VI. Recruitment

The recruitment of students for training in the USSR takes several forms: directly through Soviet embassies and consulates throughout the Free World and indirectly through local Communist parties and Communist-front organizations, leftist-oriented trade unions, and international organizations and through bilateral aid and cultural exchange agreements negotiated between the two countries concerned. In his speech proclaiming the establishment of Peoples' Friendship University, Premier Khrushchev proposed "that the new university train both those who are sent by government organs and those who express their wish to study." <sup>16/</sup> This statement was tantamount to a policy of admission for foreign students that involved the recruitment and selection of students without prior screening, consultation, or clearance with the student's own government.

Some governments have been able to exercise control over the awarding of scholarships to their nationals; others, as a result of Soviet clandestine efforts or of their own disorganization, have not even been aware of the number of their students studying in the USSR. Where the cultural agreement stipulates the number of scholarships provided and the length of training, some governments have been able to control the selection of students. The United Arab Republic, for example, has developed a policy of sending only those students who, authorities believe, will be less susceptible to Communist indoctrination. Other countries, with varying degrees of awareness of the inherent dangers of this program, try to control selections or to maintain surveillance, or both, but with widely varying degrees of success.

In Africa, an aggressive recruitment of academic students is carried on through nonofficial and clandestine sources. In a country

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about 700 students at the University went to labor and rest camps in Moldavia; 300 made trips through the USSR; and about 700 spent some time at a rest home near Maikop on the Black Sea. For the first time, a detachment of 80 students worked in the virgin lands. <sup>14/</sup>



where there are no Soviet representatives or official exchange programs, students go to neighboring countries and are enlisted there by recruiters who provide them with passports and travel funds. Ghana has become a focal point for recruiting students from Togo, Nigeria, and Cameroon; Cairo serves as a center in northern Africa; and Dar-es-Salaam is the center of such activity for eastern and southern Africa. After a rendezvous in Cairo, the students are then transported via Aeroflot planes to Moscow.

Students who have fled from the USSR and other Communist countries have told of still another means of recruitment that defies control by the home country. Many students enrolled in Western European institutions but with inadequate funds to complete their studies often succumb to the offers of scholarships for study in the Communist countries with "all expenses paid."

Communist-dominated international front organizations, such as the World Federation of Democratic Youth, the International Union of Students, the World Federation of Trade Unions, and the Women's International Democratic Federation, also serve as channels for scholarships. International and national meetings of these and similar organizations are used to establish and cultivate contacts in the less developed countries. Many of the African student organizations are an outgrowth of such activities.

The International Union of Students reportedly has a section known as the "International Fund for Assistance to Students of Semi-Colonial and Dependent Countries." Scholarships are granted to countries according to the strength and "progress" of their student organizations.

Local left-wing groups and political parties in some cases have served as channels for Soviet scholarships and hope in this way to develop a following among the students when they return home. Prominent among such groups are the Oginga Odinga faction of the Kenya African National Union Party and the Ghanaian Bureau of African Affairs, which draw in students from outside Ghana to build support for Nkrumah's pan-African ambitions. Soviet cooperation with these groups is viewed as another means of expanding Communist influence and ties in these areas.

Attitudes of less developed countries on Soviet educational programs are somewhat ambivalent. Some government officials have been reluctant to recognize the dangers inherent in such Soviet activities. They are overly confident that those whom they select as recipients for official scholarships will remain impervious to Communist propaganda. They welcome this type of scholarship because the aid is long term and free of complicated bureaucratic procedures which, in their minds, characterize most Western offers of scholarships. In other governments, however, there is at least a growing concern about the clandestine migration of students to Communist countries, and some

steps are being taken to establish tighter procedures for passport control. For example, as the first Sudanese graduates of Soviet universities returned to their homeland in the latter part of 1963, the government of Sudan made it clear to these graduates that they could not expect to find positions in the civil service. Also, there were some indications that those holding degrees in medicine from Soviet universities, on other than official scholarships, might find it difficult to obtain licenses to engage in private practice. 17/ If Sudan's position on these few cases becomes a matter of general policy and becomes generally known to young Sudanese, the temptation for a Sudanese youth to go clandestinely to the USSR for his university education may be substantially reduced. On the other hand, such discrimination tends to aggravate and accentuate grievances among returnees and could result in casting them directly in a subversive role -- a step that otherwise might have been avoided.

To some extent, the Soviet educational authorities have now been forced to modify their recruiting methods. The tendency in recruiting recently has been an increasing reliance on exchanges negotiated with the national authorities concerned. This shift has been due, in part, not only to the low standard of students recruited directly but also to the insistence of the governments -- for example, of India, Nepal, Burma, Nigeria, Indonesia, and Iraq -- that they should have the right to approve all applications for study in the USSR.

## VII. Technical Training

Concomitant with and complementary to academic training, the USSR has accepted foreign nationals for training as skilled laborers and professional, organizational, and managerial personnel. Authorities in the USSR view this type of assistance to the less developed countries primarily as a means of providing requisite technical and managerial skills to facilitate implementation of Soviet-aided projects. Although a large part of the technical training is provided for under the Soviet economic aid agreements, personnel also are being trained under the provisions of agreements for scientific and technical cooperation and agreements between agricultural cooperative associations. Whereas the cost of training technicians for employment on projects undertaken under aid agreements generally is drawn from the lines of credit, other training is financed through scholarships granted under the agreements for scientific and technical assistance.

### A. Number of Personnel and Country of Origin

In view of the general paucity of skilled personnel in less developed countries -- not only of persons capable of operating machinery and equipment but also of planners, administrators, supervisors, and the like -- those countries which have been recipients of Soviet economic aid have sent increasing numbers of individuals to the USSR for technical training. During the first 4 years of the Soviet

economic assistance program, 1956-59, 1,200 nationals from the Middle East and Asia were trained in the USSR. By 1964 the total number of students from less developed countries who had received such training exceeded 6,800. Almost 2,700 trainees were receiving technical training in the USSR in 1964 (see Table 2).

Table 2  
Number of Technical Trainees from Less Developed Countries  
Present in the USSR at End of Calendar Year  
1956-64

Area of Origin	Persons					
	1956-59 <sup>a/</sup>	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Total	1,200	385	715	810	1,035	2,695
Middle East	180	280	200	465	140	1,610
Africa	0	10	290	155	255	410
Asia	1,020	95	225	190	635	675
Latin America	0	0	0	0	5	0

a. The figures represent the total number of technical trainees who undertook training in the USSR during 1956-59. Data are not available for the number present for any one year.

The United Arab Republic and India have consistently sent the largest contingents of students -- a practice that reflects the large number of industrial projects being established in these countries under Soviet aid agreements and their comprehensive development programs. The Aswan High Dam project in the United Arab Republic and the Bhilai steel plant in India are, of course, the major industrial undertakings. Of the African nations, Algeria, Ghana, and the Somali Republic are the main beneficiaries, once more reflecting the presence of sizable Soviet programs for assistance in economic development. The absence of trainees from the Latin American countries underscores the interrelationship between this type of training and the Soviet economic aid program.

#### B. Curriculum

Most of the technical training programs in which nationals from the Middle East, Asia, and Africa are believed to be engaged are for periods of less than 1 year. Some trainees, however, specifically those entered in the formal specialized secondary institutions, may be so engaged for periods ranging from 2 to 6 years. Obviously the length of time is relative to the degree of training involved. In general, the governments of less developed countries appear to be more favorably inclined to offers of short-term training.

Programs offered by the USSR encompass many types of technical training in the fields of industry, agriculture, public communications, civil aviation, medicine, financial operations, and government administration. Industrial operations include techniques for drilling oil wells and laying oil pipelines, operating an oil refinery, operating a railroad, factory production of textiles and hardware, manufacturing plywood and paper, production processes for iron and steel mills, flour milling and baking, shipbuilding, development of harbors and dockyards, techniques of the fishing industry, automotive mechanics, roadbuilding and maintenance, operating a sugar mill, operating a tanning industry, industrial chemistry, installing and operating a power station, and mining techniques.

Agricultural training may include maintenance and operation of farm machinery, use of insecticides, grain sterilization, irrigation processes, sericulture, raising poultry, animal husbandry, and other farming techniques. Those engaged in programs for public communications may study printing press operations, journalism, radio and television broadcasting, photography, and cinematography. Training in the field of medicine includes public health and sanitation, practical training in clinics and hospitals, and operation and maintenance of medical equipment.

#### C. Costs

The preponderant share of the cost of training technicians from less developed countries generally is met by drawing on the lines of credit extended by the USSR under its economic aid agreements with the individual countries. Training that is not related to projects falling under aid agreements, however, is financed through scholarships granted under accords for scientific and technical assistance. Both forms of arrangements usually include the cost of training or tuition estimated at 315 rubles a month for room and board, medical expenses, and an allowance for personal expenditures of 80 rubles a month. The cost of round trip transportation, estimated at 450 rubles, and clothing allowances of 270 rubles also may be included.

#### VIII. Impact of the Program

As yet it is premature to attempt to estimate the impact of Soviet academic training programs on students from less developed countries. The establishment of this long-term, comprehensive program is relatively recent, and comparatively few students have completed their terms of study and returned home. What is certain, however, is that student disaffection constitutes a continuing problem for Soviet authorities. Premier Khrushchev, in response to student demonstrations following the death of a Ghanaian student in December 1963, bluntly offered exit visas to those students who did not like the treatment they were receiving in the USSR. Following this warning, the USSR Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education issued a decree stipulating

regulations which, among other things, will govern the behavior and control of foreign students in the USSR. Students who do not conform to the regulation may be charged with "abuse of hospitality" and be subject to immediate deportation. Furthermore, such offenders may be prosecuted under Soviet criminal laws (see Appendix B).

In general, the environmental causes of dissatisfaction have been those most frequently mentioned by students leaving the Communist countries. Racial discrimination has been a major source of discontent, and complaints from African students have been profuse. The creation of a special university for the students from abroad was interpreted by many -- Asians as well as Africans -- as a segregationist action. Isolation from the local population and student bodies of the host country, the ubiquitous surveillance and irksome systems of control over personal movements and associations, the censorship of mail, and restrictions on travel -- all these controls have added to the disillusionment.

A complaint often heard from students is one of financial hardship, in spite of the rather generous terms of Soviet scholarships. The allowance of 300 rubles for clothing, given once for a 5-year study program, is sufficient only for the purchase of heavy, winter apparel.\* As students usually are advised not to bring much luggage with them, additional purchases of more ordinary clothing must be financed from their monthly stipend of 80 or 90 rubles. A pure woolen suit, appropriate for "social activities" and not included in the "winter" complement, may cost between 140 and 200 rubles, and a simple pair of dress shoes between 30 and 40 rubles. Expenditures on food may run as high as 60 rubles a month. In addition, in universities other than Peoples' Friendship University, charges reportedly are made to the students for housing, medicine, and stationery. Another expenditure is necessitated by the student's dependence on textbooks in other than the Russian language. 18/ A student is expected to be able to understand the Russian language, read books, and cope with lectures after studying Russian for 1 year, but in practice this has proved difficult. A number of governments provide their students with supplementary funds in order to ease this financial strain; the majority, however, probably do not, as they accept literally the Soviet offers of "all expenses paid."

Complaints about curriculum and indoctrination also are common but are more frequent from students who have been exposed previously to Western educational systems and who have mastered the Russian language sufficiently to allow them to form an appraisal. From time to time, students have complained that they were not allowed by the authorities to pursue their choice of study. In some cases, certain fields of study have been denied because of internal security considerations.

\* According to one student's accounting, the 300 rubles for winter clothing were spent as follows: winter coat, 120 rubles; hat, 10; shoes, 40; pullover, 40; underwear, 30; sportswear, 50; socks and gloves, 10. 19/

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Vexing though such problems must be to Soviet authorities, there is no indication that such difficulties and the attendant bad publicity have led them to slow their recruitment and placement activities. In spite of evidences of a growing sensitivity on the part of less developed countries to the treatment accorded their nationals in Communist countries, Soviet sources report an average of 10 applicants for every available space in Peoples' Friendship University, and although the claim may be exaggerated, the supply of candidates probably has exceeded the availability of opportunities. Instances of friction between scholarship students from less developed countries and the local population probably will continue in an educational environment in which academic facilities and housing accommodations are heavily taxed and where many capable Soviet teenagers and others are directed into the labor force by government educational policies. Such accumulated strains may have been reflected in the declining numbers of new enrollees evident since 1962. As long as the USSR remains willing to accept and finance them, however, a flow of students at whatever level the authorities may wish is likely to be forthcoming.

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## APPENDIX A

REGULATIONS FOR FOREIGN CITIZENS  
STUDYING IN HIGHER AND SPECIALIZED SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS  
AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE USSR\*

(Order of the Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education  
of the USSR, No. 6, 7 January 1964)

The Minister of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education has approved the accompanying regulations concerning foreign citizens studying in higher and specialized secondary educational institutions and scientific establishments in the USSR. The rectors of higher educational institutions [VUZ's] and the directors of specialized secondary educational institutions and scientific institutions in the USSR are to acquaint every foreign student with the present regulations.

General Regulations

1. Foreign citizens are admitted to higher and specialized secondary educational institutions and scientific institutions of the USSR for education, as well as for scientific internship, on the basis of intergovernmental agreements and plans for cultural and scientific cooperation between the USSR and the countries concerned, and also at the request of government agencies. Citizens of foreign countries who have a suitable education may, regardless of their nationality, race, sex or religion, study in educational institutions of the Soviet Union.
2. Soviet public organizations -- the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions, the Committee of Youth Organizations of the USSR, the Union of Soviet Societies of Friendship and Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries, the Soviet Committee of Solidarity with the Countries of Asia and Africa, the Central Union of Consumers' Cooperatives and others -- annually allocate stipends for the use of foreign students accepted for study on the recommendation of the appropriate foreign public organizations. In addition, the Soviet Union allocates a certain number of stipends to international organizations -- UNESCO, the International Students' Union, the International Atomic Energy Agency and others.
3. Enrollment of foreign citizens for education at the Patrice Lumumba University of the Friendship of Peoples is carried out on the basis of statutes and enrollment regulations confirmed by the university's council.

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4. Foreign students residing in the territory of the USSR are enrolled in higher and specialized secondary educational institutions of the USSR on an equal basis with Soviet citizens according to the enrollment regulations confirmed by the USSR Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education.

5. Higher and specialized secondary educational institutions of the USSR accept foreign citizens up to the age of 35, graduate students up to the age of 40, and applicants for scientific internship without age limitation.

6. The right to enroll in higher educational institutions of the USSR is granted to individuals possessing a document [certificate] of completion of secondary education or, in the case of those enrolling for graduate study in higher educational institutions and scientific research institutes, a document [diploma] of graduation from a higher educational institution. Specialists with a higher or specialized secondary education are accepted for internship for the purpose of improving their scientific or specialized training.

7. Foreign citizens applying for education in the USSR are to submit the following documents through the appropriate organizations in their country to Soviet representatives abroad:

- (a) certificate of education;
- (b) health certificate;
- (c) application form (two copies);
- (d) photographs (six).

#### Instruction in Preparatory Faculties

8. Foreign citizens without a knowledge of the Russian language are enrolled for a period of up to one year in preparatory faculties attached to educational institutions in various cities of the USSR. Enrollment of foreign citizens in preparatory faculties is handled by the USSR Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education. Foreign students in preparatory faculties receive instruction in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, drafting, history, geography and other subjects, in addition to the Russian language, depending on the specialty they intend to acquire in a USSR educational institution. Instruction in these disciplines is offered with the aim of giving the students a mastery of special terminology in the Russian language and bringing their knowledge up to the level required for enrollment in Soviet educational institutions.

9. Examinations in the subjects studied are conducted in the preparatory faculties at the end of the school year. Those entering graduate study also take examinations in the specialty they intend to

pursue in the graduate division of a higher educational institution or scientific research institution. Students successfully passing the examinations receive a certificate of completion of the preparatory faculty and are assigned for instruction to higher or specialized secondary educational institutions of the USSR depending on the level of their preparation and their selected specialty.

Instruction in USSR Educational Institutions

10. The school year at USSR higher and specialized secondary educational institutions begins on 1 September. Instruction of foreign citizens is conducted in the Russian language and according to the study plans and programs of USSR educational institutions. Higher, specialized secondary and other educational institutions of the USSR provide foreign students with all the conditions for acquiring the necessary knowledge and high skill in their selected specialty.

11. Education in the USSR is free. All foreign students enjoy free medical services and are furnished dormitory quarters (without families) on an equal basis with Soviet students; as a rule they are assigned to rooms accommodating three or four persons.

12. Foreign students have an equal right with Soviet students to free use of laboratories, study rooms, reading halls, libraries and other auxiliary study facilities, as well as of the athletic facilities and equipment of the educational institution; and to participate in the research work of departments and of student scientific circles organized by departments and students' scientific societies of higher educational institutions.

13. The student at a higher or specialized secondary educational institution is issued a student card and a grade-record book of a form established by the USSR Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education.

14. Various incentive measures are established for students for good academic achievements and for active participation in the life of the educational institution.

15. A student who completes all the requirements of the study plan and program is admitted to the defense of a diploma project [diploma work] or to the state examinations. A student who passes the state examinations or defends his diploma project [diploma work] successfully is accredited by the State [Accreditation] Commission in the specialty he has acquired and is presented with a diploma in the established form in two languages [Russian and a foreign language], and, if the graduate requests it, containing a supplement listing all the disciplines studied and the examination grades obtained in each of them. In addition to the diploma, the graduate of a higher educational institution is presented with a medallion. The most outstanding students are awarded, by

decision of the council of the higher educational institution and in accordance with established procedure, a diploma with honors.

16. The length of education is established at two to four years for students in specialized secondary institutions and at four to six years for those in higher educational institutions, depending on the course of study.

17. The transfer of a student from one educational institution to another or a change in his specialty may be granted only in exceptional cases at the request of the government, embassy or public organization that sent the foreign citizen to study in the USSR, and then only during the summer vacation [July and August].

18. A graduation diploma from a USSR specialized secondary institution is equivalent to a corresponding document attesting the completion of a junior college in the USA. A graduation diploma from a USSR higher educational institution is equivalent to a master's degree in the USA and to the corresponding academic degrees in other countries.

#### Graduate Instruction

19. Foreign citizens enrolled for graduate study in higher educational institutions or scientific research institutions in the USSR on the basis of individual plans of work approved by the council of the higher educational institution [department] or of the scientific research institution are required to pass candidate's examinations in the Russian language and the specialized discipline corresponding to the subject of the dissertation and to write and defend their candidate's dissertation within the established periods. The term of graduate study, not including the time spent in the preparatory faculty, is established as not exceeding three years.

20. The graduate dissertation must contain new scientific and practical conclusions and recommendations and must demonstrate the author's capability for independent research and a thorough theoretical knowledge in the area of discipline as well as in the [specific] area of research. Each graduate student is assigned an academic adviser by the educational institution or scientific research institution to assist him in carrying out the research on the subject selected. The graduate student must make periodic reports on the fulfillment of his individual plan in the department, scientific section or laboratory and must be certified annually by the scientific supervisors. The certification of the graduate student, confirmed by the rector of the educational institution or director of the scientific research institution is transmitted through the USSR Ministry of Higher and Specialized Secondary Education to the embassy of the country of the graduate student's origin or directly to the graduate student. A graduate student who has not demonstrated ability in conducting scientific research or who fails to fulfill his individual plan of work within the established

period without valid reasons is dismissed from graduate study. A foreign citizen who completes his graduate studies and defends his candidate's dissertation successfully is awarded the academic degree of candidate of sciences, corresponding to the academic degree of doctor of specialized sciences [technical, chemical, etc.] in the USA and the equivalent academic degrees in other countries, and is presented with the diploma of a candidate of sciences. A graduate student who fails to defend his candidate's dissertation within the established period is issued a certificate of graduate instruction but is not awarded an academic degree.

Responsibilities of Foreign Students

21. It is the responsibility of foreign citizens accepted for education in the USSR educational institutions and scientific research institutions to observe Soviet laws and respect the customs and generally accepted traditions of the peoples of the Soviet Union; fulfill all the requirements made of students by the statutes of the higher, specialized secondary or other educational institutions of the USSR in which they are enrolled; observe the established regulations on residence and travel of foreign citizens on USSR territory; systematically and thoroughly master the theoretical knowledge and practical skills of the chosen specialty and work at increasing their scientific and technical level; strictly observe student discipline, attend all required study sessions [lectures, seminars, and practical work] and complete all forms of study assignments stipulated by the study plans and programs within the established periods; at the designated times take the tests and examinations stipulated by the study plan; strictly observe the rules of student and dormitory routine and participate in self-service [dormitory housekeeping].

22. A student who has for valid reasons failed to take tests and examinations for a given course may at the discretion of the administration of the educational institution be allowed to remain for a repetition of the course. A student who fails to take tests and examinations without valid reasons is dismissed from the educational institution.

23. Disciplinary measures of punishment, up to dismissal from the educational institution, are applied to foreign students, just as they are to Soviet students, for violations of study discipline or of the rules of institutional routine or for improper behavior.

24. A foreign student who abuses Soviet hospitality is expelled from the confines of the USSR according to the procedure established by law. A person who commits a criminal offense is prosecuted in accordance with the USSR laws in force.

Maintenance of Foreign Students

25. The size of stipends granted to foreign students, graduate students and specialists and the procedure for their material maintenance are established in accordance with the intergovernmental agreements in force. The stipend begins at the moment of the student's enrollment in a USSR educational institution and is paid out at times established by the educational institution. During the period of the summer vacation, the student receives his stipend regardless of where he spends his vacation. Persons arriving late for the beginning of the regular school year following the vacation do not receive their stipends for the period of missed studies.

26. Persons accepted for education in USSR higher and specialized secondary educational institutions for terms of short duration [up to 10 months] are not granted stipends for the vacation period. All forms of stipends are paid in Soviet currency and are not convertible into foreign currency.

27. For students arriving from countries with warm climates, educational institutions will in case of need provide warm clothing [overcoat, cap, warm footwear].

28. Educational institutions help foreign students who remain in the USSR for their summer vacation to organize their leisure. Funds allocated for this purpose are not issued directly [to the students].

29. If a student travels to his homeland or to another country during his vacation, the expenditures for such travels are not covered by the educational institutions.

30. Upon completion of study at a USSR educational institution, the foreign student receives payment for his travel from the educational institution to the capital of the country from which he came. In all other instances of a student's departure for his homeland, his travel expenses are met by himself or by the organization that sent him to the USSR for education.

31. The conditions of material maintenance of foreign students stipulated in these regulations may be modified in cases specified in the appropriate intergovernmental agreements.

Public Organizations of Foreign Students in the USSR

32. Foreign students receiving their education in the USSR have the right to unite in associations [leagues, unions] of their countrymen. An association [league, union] may be created if there are at least three members and if it unites students from one country who are studying at an educational institution.

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33. Public organizations of foreign students studying in the USSR are of a nonpolitical nature and have as their purpose assisting the administrations of educational institutions in preparing from among the foreign students highly qualified specialists, educated in a spirit of humanism and the friendship of peoples, for their own countries; assisting in the solution of questions of the cultural and living conditions of the members of the association.

34. The association [league, union] carries on its work in close contact with Soviet student organizations and the administration of the educational institution.

35. Foreign students may be elected on an equal basis with Soviet students to the councils of athletic clubs, student scientific societies, student clubs and student dormitories and participate in amateur art activities.

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APPENDIX B

RULES OF ADMISSION FOR PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY  
IMENI PATRICE LUMUMBA\*

As announced by the Soviet press in March 1960, enrollment in Peoples' Friendship University was to be in the following specialized faculties:

- (1) Engineering -- building and development of machines and mechanisms; construction; prospecting, mining, and utilization of mineral resources;
- (2) Agriculture -- agronomy and zootechnics;
- (3) Medicine -- medical treatment and pharmacy;
- (4) Physics, Mathematics, and Natural Sciences -- mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology;
- (5) History and Philology -- history, literature, Russian language; and
- (6) Economics and Law -- economics, planning of national economy, and international law.

Regulations for applicants were announced as follows: men and women under 35 years of age will be admitted to the university, irrespective of race, nationality, or religion.

The course of study at the Medical Faculty is 5 years, at the other faculties 4 years. Applications for admission from citizens of the countries of Asia, Africa, and Latin America may be submitted directly to the University or through the embassies and consulates of the USSR in foreign countries. Enrollment in the first course of Peoples' Friendship University is decided by the University Council after examination of applicants having a general secondary education of a given country. Persons without adequate preparation may be accepted in the Preparatory Faculty of the University for completion of general secondary education, for a period of 1 to 3 years. Persons who have a general secondary education, but who have not mastered the Russian language, will also be enrolled at the Preparatory Faculty for a period up to 1 year.

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Applications for admission to the University are to be submitted to the rector with the following enclosures: (1) autobiography with two photographs, (2) education certificates, and (3) health certificate. All requests will be reviewed by the University Council, and the decision handed down is final.

Tuition at the University is free, and the students are guaranteed stipends (90 rubles a month), free medical care, and dormitory accommodation. The University will pay the costs of transportation to Moscow and return after completion of the study program.

All courses are taught in the Russian language.

The final diploma is granted only to students who have spent all their university years at the University. Diplomas will be in two languages, Russian and a language of the student's choice.

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APPENDIX C

PHOTOGRAPHS OF PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY



Peoples' Friendship University, Moscow



Foreign Students Listening to Russian Language Tapes

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Seminar in the Russian Language



Foreign Students in a Laboratory

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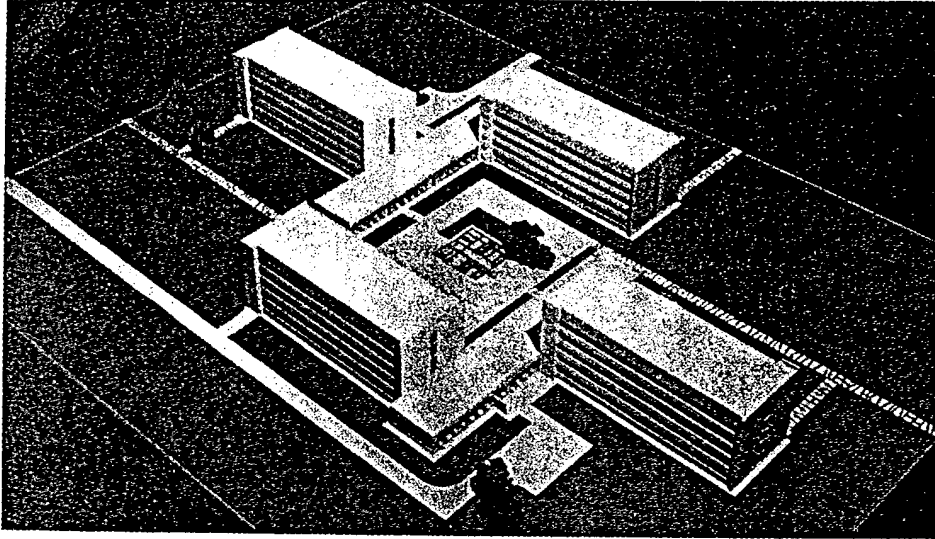
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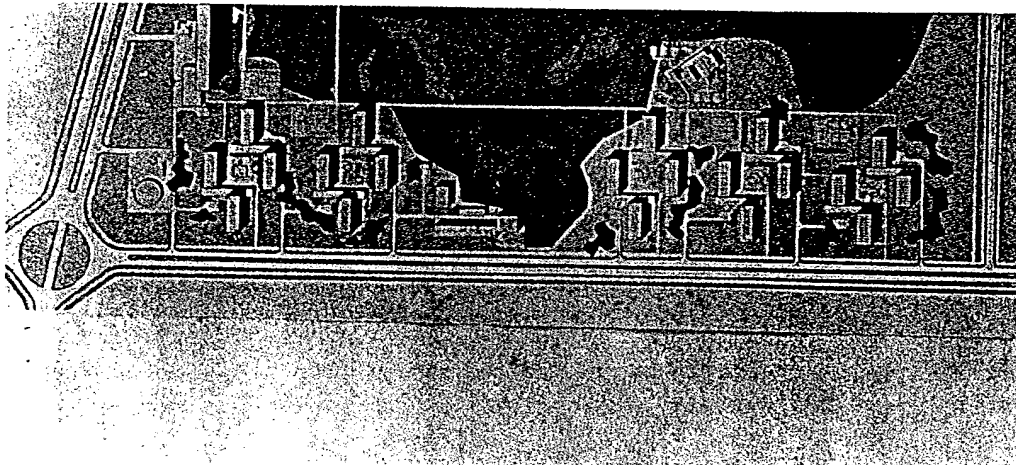
Cafeteria Line in the Dining Hall

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Model of Proposed Dormitories



General Plan of Proposed Campus Complex

APPENDIX D

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